Tie up with Saudi Arabia in Oil/Gas Sector

2900. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to tie-up with Saudi Arabia for investment in Indian refineries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the two Government have agreed to further explore possibilities in the field of gas fields; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. have initiated discussions with Saudi Aramco for possible Saudi investment in the expansion of HPCL's Vishakhapatnam refinery and IOC's Paradeep refinery. The proposed Saudi investment is associated with possible HPCL investment in Yanbu refinery in the Red Sea. It is hoped that the two refineries between them will be able to cater to markets both in the West and the East. The two Governments have blessed these mutual investments, but the terms have to be worked out between the commercial entities concerned.

(c) and (d) ONGC/OVL had indicated their interest in participating in the South Ghawar gas development project and other gas blocks besides the entire value chain of Natural Gas. GAIL has also presented its capabilities in involving in domestic gas distribution networks. A Joint Technical Committee will be considering these issues further.

Action against petrol pump owners for adulteration

†2901. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of cases registered during the last one year in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh involving adulteration of petrol and underweighing;

(b) the action taken against the owners found guitly; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.